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Economic and Social Council

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Commission for Social Development
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Agenda item 3 (b)
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups

Portugal: draft resolution

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Policies and programmes involving youth

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, annexed thereto, as an integral part of that resolution,

Noting especially that, in paragraph 123 of the Programme of Action, current regional and interregional conferences of ministers responsible for youth affairs in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Asia were invited to intensify cooperation among each other and to consider meeting regularly at the international level under the aegis of the United Nations to provide an effective forum for a focused global dialogue on youth-related issues,

Noting that, in paragraph 124 of the Programme of Action, youth-related bodies and organizations of the United Nations system were invited to cooperate with the above-mentioned conferences,

Recalling that, in paragraph 125 of the Programme of Action, the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System was invited to contribute to the implementation

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of the Programme of Action through the identification and promotion of joint initiatives to further its objectives so that they better reflected the interests of youth,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/55 of 23 July 1997 and General Assembly resolution 52/83 of 12 December 1997, in which the Council and the Assembly welcomed the invitation of the Government of Portugal to host the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, held at Lisbon from 8 to 12 August 1998,

Welcoming the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, hosted by the Government of Portugal in cooperation with the United Nations, as well as the support of the Government of Portugal for the holding of the third session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, convened at Braga, Portugal, from 2 to 7 August 1998,

1. *Takes notes with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,[1] the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, adopted by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth,[2] and the Braga Youth Action Plan, adopted by the third session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System;[3]

2. *Calls upon* all States, all United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in particular youth organizations, to make all possible efforts towards the implementation of the Programme of Action and to consider, within its framework, the appropriate ways and means to follow up the Lisbon Declaration, also taking into account the reports of the second[4] and third sessions of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System held, respectively, in Vienna in 1996 and in Braga in 1998, in accordance with their experience, situation and priorities;

3. *Invites* all relevant United Nations programmes, funds, specialized agencies and other bodies within the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and regional financial institutions, to give greater support to national youth policies and programmes within their country programmes as a way to follow up the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System;

4. *Welcomes* the proposals made by the Secretary-General to strengthen the Youth Unit of the Secretariat[5] and requests that similar action be undertaken to strengthen the corresponding youth policy units and focal points throughout the United Nations system and to involve young people directly in the planning, implementation and evaluation of such activities;

5. *Encourages* the regional commissions to follow up the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and the third session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System in their respective regions, in coordination with regional meetings of ministers responsible for youth and regional youth non-governmental

[1] A/54/59.
[2] A/53/378, annex I.
[3] A/53/378, annex II.
[4] A/52/80–E/1997/14, annex.
[5] A/54/59, para. 93.

organizations, and to provide advisory services to support national youth policies and programmes in each region;

6. *Endorses* the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth that 12 August be declared International Youth Day[6] and recommends that public information activities be organized at all levels to support the Day as a way to promote better awareness, especially among youth, of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to participate actively in the effective follow-up to the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 52/83 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/55 and within the framework of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond;

8. *Invites* States to consider hosting the second World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and therefore to take action within the responsible bodies of the United Nations system in order to do so;

9. *Calls upon* all States, all United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to exchange knowledge and expertise on youth-related issues, upon setting up the ways and means to do so.

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[6] Document WCMRY/1998/28, chap. I, resolution 2